NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

# INFORMATION LETTER

PUBLICATION OR REPRODUCTION NOT PERMITTED

No. 459 Washington, D. C. June 18, 1932

## TAXES ON FRUIT JUICES

Numerous letters have been received from canners relative to the applicability of the soft drink taxes to various fruit juices. The Bureau of Internal Revenue is preparing the regulations for the collection of these taxes, and they will probably be ready for distribution during the week of June 20. Meanwhile, the Association has obtained rulings on two products—tomato juice and pineapple juice. As noted in last week's Information Letter, tomato juice was held exempt from the tax. Pineapple juice, it has been ruled, is subject to the tax.

## USE OF OLD SUBSTANDARD LABELS

Inquiries having been received from canners as to whether they will be permitted to use their present supplies of substandard labels, or whether they will be required to make up new labels in accordance with the revision of the regulations under the McNary-Mapes amendment, the Association has ascertained from the Food and Drug Administration that it will be proper for canners to use up these old substandard labels, as it is not the purpose of the administration to make rulings that will incur additional expense for the canning industry if it can possibly be avoided. This position of the Food and Drug Administration assumes that the substandard labels in stock comply with the rulings in effect at the time they were printed.

## THE FOOD GUARANTY

Inquiries continue to be received from canners with respect to a food guaranty they are asked to sign. This particular form of guaranty, when originally offered, was not acceptable to canners and a request for its adoption was withdrawn by the Conference Committee of the National Wholesale Grocers Association in view of the enlargement of the protective service of the National Canners Association which was in contemplation at that time and which has since become operative.

Members of the National Canners Association may therefore properly reply to requests that they sign this guaranty by citing the action of the Conference Committee.

### GETTING CANNED FOOD INFORMATION TO RETAILERS

With this week's Letter members of the Association will receive a pamphlet entitled "What If She Asks a Question," which contains about forty of the more important questions received by the Association in connection with the advertising campaign, along with a concise answer to each of these questions.

The pamphlet was prepared with a view to its distribution to retail grocers so that they might be in a position to answer or anticipate the questions that canned food consumers may ask. It is planned that this distribution will be made through wholesalers and their salesmen, who will be offered supplies of the leaflet for such purpose by the salesmen of the can companies.

There is also in contemplation the issuance of a similar pamphlet in somewhat modified form for direct distribution to food consumers and for use by the canning industry and trade in their correspondence with consumers.

### NAVY DEPARTMENT ASKS BIDS ON CANNED FOODS

The Bureau of Supplies and Accounts of the Navy Department has requested sealed bids on certain canned foods, for delivery at various East and West Coast points. The articles, the opening dates and the number of the schedule, which can be obtained from the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts at Washington, are as follows: Apricots, July 5, Schedule 8180; Pears, July 19, Schedule 8186; Peas, July 26, Schedule 8215.

### TARIFF INVESTIGATION ON CANNED CLAMS REQUESTED

An application for an investigation of canned clams under the flexible provisions of the tariff act has been filed with the U. S. Tariff Commission by the Pacific Coast Clam Packers Association, the purpose of the request being to obtain an increase in duty.

### PLAN TO COLLECT RETAIL PRICES POSTPONED

In view of the disorganized price situation and the difficulty of obtaining satisfactory data under present conditions, President Hutchinson has approved postponement of the plan, approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting in Chicago, to collect comparative retail prices on staple canned foods and the corresponding fresh or raw products. The action of President Hutchinson was based upon recommendations made by the sponsors of the plan.

### SYRIAN DUTIES INCREASED

Effective April 20, 1932, the Syrian import duties on canned meats and fish were increased from 11 to 25 per cent ad valorem, according to the American consul at Beirut.

## TRUCK CROP SHIPMENTS

Total shipments of 37 fruits and vegetables increased last week to 16,550 cars, compared with 22,130 a year ago. The shipping season had opened for California apples, grapes and peaches. A few peaches also came from Arkansas. Blackberries and dewberries started moving from Alabama and North Carolina.

### Carlot Shipments

| Commodity | June 5-11 1932 | May 29-June 4 1932 | June 7-13 1931 | Total this season thru June 11 | Total last season thru June 13 | Total last season |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Apples: | | | | | | |
| 1932 season | 4 | 0 | 14 | 4 | 18 | 101,160 |
| 1931 season | 341 | 345 | 229 | 101,160 | 109,537 | 109,794 |
| Asparagus | 31 | 29 | 31 | 4,163 | 3,664 | 3,866 |
| Beans, snap and lima | 342 | 453 | 435 | 9,092 | 7,349 | 9,345 |
| Beets | 20 | 38 | 29 | 1,178 | 1,477 | 1,703 |
| Blackberries, dewberries, loganberries | 18 | 2 | 24 | 20 | 28 | 374 |
| Cabbage | 370 | 301 | 604 | 12,706 | 18,660 | 37,897 |
| Carrots: | | | | | | |
| 1932 season | 307 | 215 | 235 | 7,034 | 8,346 | 11,487 |
| 1931 season | 2 | 3 | 27 | 11,487 | 12,321 | 12,437 |
| Cauliflower | 18 | 18 | 1 | 9,757 | 9,606 | 9,611 |
| Cherries | 120 | 134 | 126 | 662 | 1,157 | 1,872 |
| Corn, green | 293 | 153 | 307 | 487 | 997 | 2,238 |
| Cucumbers | 453 | 335 | 365 | 2,173 | 3,258 | 6,480 |
| Grapefruit: | | | | | | |
| Domestic | 88 | 106 | 219 | 24,211 | 29,243 | 29,837 |
| Imports | 3 | 2 | 34 | 958 | 722 | 1,085 |
| Mixed vegetables | 352 | 377 | 548 | 15,038 | 17,799 | 28,557 |
| Peaches | 23 | 0 | 274 | 23 | 414 | 46,070 |
| Peas, green | 136 | 179 | 152 | 3,881 | 4,664 | 7,186 |
| Peppers: | | | | | | |
| Domestic | 44 | 44 | 121 | 1,983 | 1,914 | 2,818 |
| Imports | 3 | 2 | 1 | 56 | 147 | 147 |
| Plums and fresh prunes | 322 | 235 | 633 | 625 | 1,321 | 6,107 |
| Tomatoes: | | | | | | |
| Domestic | 1,516 | 1,232 | 1,872 | 9,714 | 10,910 | 27,843 |
| Imports | 1 | 40 | 0 | 5,071 | 4,412 | 4,412 |
| Turnips and rutabagas: | | | | | | |
| Domestic | 4 | 1 | 10 | 111 | 439 | 1,346 |
| Imports | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,397 | 377 | 914 |

### Car Loadings

| | Total | Miscellaneous | Merchandise L. C. L. | Other |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Week ended June 4 | 447,387 | 169,993 | 154,984 | 122,410 |
| Previous week | 520,962 | 195,535 | 180,490 | 144,937 |
| Corresponding week, 1931 | 761,084 | 306,997 | 224,031 | 230,056 |
| Corresponding week, 1930 | 935,582 | 369,316 | 243,753 | 322,513 |

## FIJI PINEAPPLE PLANT CLOSES DOWN

The Fiji Pineapple Company, the first to enter the Fijian field, has closed down after packing 1,200 cases, according to the American consul at Suva. At the beginning of the season the company had in stock 10,000 cases of last year's pack and was unable to get capital to purchase cans. The equivalent of from 50,000 to 100,000 cases of fruit rotted in the field. On the other

hand the West Coast Pines was unable to meet the demand for its product and offered to purchase fruit from the Fiji Company, but the offer was rejected.

### COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS OF FRUIT

The following table shows the holdings of fruit in cold storage reported to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics as of May 1, also a comparison with last year and with a five-year average:

| | June 1 1932 | June 1 1931 | 5-year average |
|---|---|---|---|
| Apples: | | | |
| Barrels | 63,000 | 38,000 | 118,000 |
| Boxes | 1,362,000 | 1,425,000 | 951,000 |
| Baskets | 467,000 | 193,000 | 229,000 |
| Pears: | | | |
| Boxes | 23,000 | 44,000 | 35,000 |
| Baskets | 5,000 | 1,000 | 4,000 |
| Frozen and preserved fruits (pounds) | 69,073,000 | 66,358,000 | 44,789,000 |

### GREECE WILL REQUIRE DATING OF CANNED FOODS

According to an order of March 2, 1932, issued by the Director of Police and published in the Official Greek Gazette for March 19, the containers of canned foods sold in Greece on and after October 1, 1932, must bear in embossed arabic figures (in the metal) the date of packing and release from the packing plant. The requirement applies to canned foods of any origin, whether manufactured in Greece or imported from abroad.

The same order provides that the sale of canned foods, the containers of which do not show the date of their packing in the above-mentioned manner, shall be strictly prohibited in Greece on and after October 1, 1932; also that their sale will be prohibited from the same date, if more than six months has elapsed since the date of their packing. Containers of canned foods packed more than six months prior to this date will accordingly be seized and destroyed by the market police service. This information was forwarded to the Department of Commerce by the American commercial attache at Athens.

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